

I support part of the ARRL petition. I do believe the Morse code proficiency requirements should be abolished for all amateur radio licenses. I have already passed the electronics and operating theory test for the General license but I'm still stuck at Technician because I have little time for learning Morse code because I don't intend to use it.

I DO NOT think techs should be automatically upgraded to General. They should be tested on theory, FCC rules, and operating practices first.

However, forcing people to learn Morse code is probably why so many of the already few younger hams rarely - if ever - actually get on the air. Someone should not have to prove the ability to use a mode that they never plan to use in the first place. Removing the Morse requirement will only move this hobby forward. Keeping this obsolete requirement will only hurt the Amateur Radio service by continuing to keep otherwise good amateur operators off the bands below 30 MHz. People often lose interest when they find out they must learn Morse code in order to gain voice privileges below 30 MHz. The only reason some hams want to keep this Morse requirement is to keep the number of operators on the HF bands low. I think this is a very selfish approach. Some feel that it's not fair to give people access to something that had to work hard for.

Morse proficiency has nothing to do with the FCC's stated purpose of the Amateur Radio service existing to advance the radio art. Now that the ITU's Morse proficiency requirement for operation on bands below 30 MHz has been eliminated, there is no compelling need for the FCC to continue to require proof of Morse proficiency. With modern radio equipment and the adding of new technologies such as satellite telephone and GPS, I doubt that few ships at sea ever use Morse code to communicate a SOS. I respectfully ask that the FCC please eliminate the CW requirements for at least the General license class license.